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BOOK REVIEWS.

A BRIEF FOR THE TRIAL OF CIVIL ISSUES BEFORE A JURY. By Austin Abbott. Second and enlarged edition by the publishers' editorial staff. The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Co., Rochester, N. Y.: 1900.

This work has been long and favorably known to the profession. Its usefulness in other States has been somewhat impaired, however, by the prominence given in the first edition to the New York practice. The present edition has been prepared with the view of adapting it to general use—a purpose which the editors seem to have successfully accomplished.

To lawyers who are not familiar with the work, it may be well to say that it is intended as a sort of ready reference manual, on questions of practice apt to arise on a jury trial—questions which the trial lawyer cannot readily anticipate, and hence has little or no opportunity to examine in the light of the authorities.

The text consists of a series of propositions, logically arranged, and stated with remarkable brevity and clearness—each followed by full annotations discussing and distinguishing the abundant authorities which the energy of the author and the editors has brought together.

We know of no other book that precisely fills the place of this as a court-room companion; and in its amplified form it should find ready welcome from trial judges and practitioners.

THE LAW OF BILLS, NOTES AND CHEQUES. By Melville M. Bigelow, Ph. D. Harvard. Second edition. Boston: Little, Brown and Company: 1900.

The VIRGINIA LAW REGISTER has heretofore expressed the highest praise for Mr. Bigelow's first edition of this work. It needs only to be said that the second and somewhat enlarged edition contains all the excellencies of the first, with many improvements, both in text and mechanical form. Much additional matter has been added, and the work has in large measure been rewritten.

Full citations to the Negotiable Instruments Law occur throughout the volume, and the full text of the law is printed as an appendix. The book has been made more useful to students (for whom it is primarily intended) by the addition of side notes in aid of the reader, and by more detailed "articulation"—a feature which teachers will especially appreciate.

The writer of this review having used Mr. Bigelow's first edition for some years as a text-book in the class-room, with the book each year in the hands of one hundred or more students, can testify with no little confidence to the general accuracy of the text and the admirable proportion and perspective observed in the author's plan. Indeed, in a very considerable and, in most cases, an unhappy experience with text-books, on various subjects, for the use of students, the writer has found none quite so satisfactory as the volume under review.

ELEMENTS OF AMERICAN JURISPRUDENCE. By William C. Robinson, LL. D., Whiteford, Professor of Common Law in the Catholic University of America; sometime Professor of Law in Yale University; author of "Elementary Law," "Forensic Oratory," "Law of Patents," etc., etc. Boston: Little, Brown and Company: 1900.

Professor Robinson has long been known to law students and to law teachers as the author of that most excellent little volume, "Robinson's Elementary Law." The present volume would scarcely be called a law-book, as that term is used by the ordinary practitioner. That is, it is not a book to be quoted on trials in the court-room and to win cases with. It is intended primarily for students, whether of law or of political science, and is rather a description of law, its sources, evidences and sanctions, the form and power of government, etc., than an embodiment of legal principles.

While the volume is full of information for the professional lawyer, it will prove especially valuable to the educated non-professional person who desires to know something of the principles that underly American jurisprudence.

As preliminary reading, Prof. Robinson's latest volume will prove as helpful to the prospective law student as has his "Elementary Law" to the student already embarked in legal study.